

JOHN RANDOLPH.

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APRIL 6, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

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Mr. BUFFINTON, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of John Randolph, of Tennessee, praying bounty land for military services, report:*

That the said John Randolph has heretofore been an applicant for bounty land at the Pension office, and the committee have obtained from said office the papers filed therein in support of said claim. From the declaration and evidence filed in the Pension office, as aforesaid, it appears that the petitioner was a private in the company commanded by Captain Gilbert C. Russell in the regiment of United States mounted infantry commanded by Colonel George Doherty, in the expedition sent by order of the United States government to take possession of Louisiana in 1803; that he volunteered as a substitute for one Snodgrass, who was drafted in Jefferson county, Tennessee, in November, 1803, for six months; that he marched to Louisiana, and continued in actual service nearly four months, and was honorably discharged from the service in said Jefferson county, Tennessee, on the 13th day of March, 1804. The original discharge, signed by Captain Russell, showing service from the 16th of November, 1803, to the 13th of March, 1804, is on file with the application.

This claim was rejected by the Commissioner of Pensions on the ground that this country was not "engaged in any war" during the period of Mr. Randolph's service, and that "it does not appear that Mr. Randolph was at any time engaged in battle during the services alleged."

As there is no general law granting bounty land for services in the army on peace establishment, except in cases where the claimant has been actually engaged in battle, the committee can see no good reason why Mr. Randolph's case should be made an exception to the general rule prescribed by law.

The committee therefore report adversely to the prayer of the petitioner.

